

(5) In view of these and other considerations, the name *Amerind* is commended to the consideration of American and foreign students of tribes and peoples. The term is an arbitrary compound of the leading syllables of the frequently-used phrase "American Indian"; it thus carries a connotive or associative element which will serve explicative and mnemonic function in early use, yet must tend to disappear as the name becomes denotive through habitual use.

(6) The proposed term carries no implication of classic relation, raises no mooted question concerning the origin or distribution of races, and perpetuates no obsolete idea; so far as the facts and theories of ethnology are concerned, it is purely denotive.

(7) The proposed term is sufficiently brief and euphonious for all practical purposes, not only in the English, but in the prevailing languages of continental Europe; and it may readily be pluralised in these languages, in accordance with their respective rules, without losing its distinctive semantic character. Moreover, it lends itself readily to adjectival termination in two forms (a desideratum in widely-used ethnologic terms, as experience has shown), viz. *Amerindian* and *Amerindic*, and is susceptible, also, of adverbial termination, while it can readily be used in the requisite actional form, *Amerindise*, or in relational form, such as *post-Amerindian*, &c.; the affixes being, of course, modifiable according to the rules of the different languages in which the term may be used.

(8) The term is proposed as a designation for all of the aboriginal tribes of the American continent and adjacent islands, including the Eskimo.

The working ethnologists in the Society were practically unanimous in approving the term for tentative adoption, and for commendation to fellow-students in this and other countries.

#### MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS AT MAURITIUS.<sup>1</sup>

DR. MELDRUM'S name is inseparably connected with the fortunes of the Royal Alfred Observatory. The value of his researches in meteorology, especially in cyclonic movements of the atmosphere, has been repeatedly acknowledged. The simple rules that he has enunciated for the handling of ships during hurricanes in the Southern Seas are based upon rigorous scientific grounds, and though it may be true that no completely satisfactory rule is possible for determining more than the approximate position of the central vortex of a cyclone by any observations at a single station, yet in a majority of cases the mariner who trusts strictly to the instructions provided will find himself in a position of safety. The recent publication of the Mauritius magnetic reductions by Mr. Claxton, the present director of the Royal Alfred Observatory, shows that Dr. Meldrum devoted himself not less energetically to the study of the absolute determinations of the magnetic elements of his station. We may never arrive at the happy condition foreshadowed by Gauss, when trustworthy and complete observations from all parts of the earth shall be obtained, but the possession of a continuous record from a distant outlying station has a value peculiarly its own, and may act as a stimulus to the establishment of other observatories in localities where they are most needed to provide material for the discussion of the amount of change in the magnetic potential of the earth, of which the simultaneous magnetic disturbances afford evidence.

Mr. Claxton, with a loyalty which we recognise and appreciate, is content to stand aside and play the part of editor to his predecessor's work. But the arrangement is not very satisfactory, giving rise as it does to two introductions, one by the editor and one by Dr. Meldrum. If the information derivable from these two sources had been carefully welded into one consecutive history, the description of the tables could have been followed more easily, and the processes employed in the reductions have been more readily apprehended.

The general arrangement does not call for any special remark. All who have been engaged in similar work know the amount of labour involved, and the care that has to be exercised. We notice what we think is a very praiseworthy feature, a determined effort to maintain a uniformity of sensitiveness on the photographic record. A difference of one m.m. in the

scale reading is intended to represent a scale value of '0005 millimetre-milligramme. This is a convenient value, sufficiently sensitive to exhibit changes for ordinary magnetic disturbances, but yet not so sensitive as to send the spot of light off the paper even in a violent magnetic storm. But Dr. Meldrum reports that it is impossible in spite of every precaution to keep this value of the coefficient constant. The length of time elapsed between the cleaning of the knife edge and the agate plane, the temperature, the change of level of the magnet due to secular decrease in the value of the vertical force, all operate as disturbing causes, necessitating continual examination and readjustment. Tables of the scale coefficient employed are given. The horizontal force magnet shows as usual the larger variation.

Mr. Claxton gives in a tabular form the more trustworthy determinations of declination and dip that have been made on the island of Mauritius since 1750. Lacaille gave  $52^{\circ} 55'$  for inclination in 1761, and in 1896 this angle had increased to  $54^{\circ} 32'$ . The earliest determination of declination gave  $16^{\circ} 30' W.$  in 1753, it now reads  $9^{\circ} 49'$ ; but the director points out, which indeed is sufficiently obvious, that there are large discrepancies among the observations arising probably from the use of indifferent instruments and the effect of local magnetic attraction, varying at the different spots at which the several determinations have been made. For these reasons, no attempt has been made to discuss the secular variation of any of the magnetic elements.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD.—In a congregation held on June 13 the Curators of the University Chest were authorised to expend a sum not exceeding 10,000*l.* in the erection of a pathological laboratory on ground adjoining the University Museum, and also to pay the sum of 250*l.* a year for five years for the equipment and maintenance of this laboratory from the date at which it shall be brought into use. An anonymous donor, a member of the University, has already offered the sum of 5000*l.* towards the erection of this laboratory, provided that it be commenced before January 1, 1901.

The above decrees were passed by Convocation on June 20, when also the twenty-fourth annual report of the visitors of the University Observatory was presented. In consequence of this report, the Curators of the University Chest will be asked to expend a sum not exceeding 500*l.* in the reconstruction of the western dome of the observatory.

It is proposed to adapt the upper floor of the Ashmolean Museum for the purposes of instruction in geography.

CAMBRIDGE.—At St. John's College the following awards in Natural Science were made on June 19:—

Foundation Scholarships continued or increased: Rudge, Yapp, Howard, Brown, Harnett, Lewton-Brain, O. May, Adams, Fletcher, Harding, Browning, Gregory, Wakely, Williams, Walker.

Exhibitions: Wyeth, Ticehurst, J. H. Field, King, Paton. Hutchinson Studentship for research (botany and zoology): G. S. West.

Research Prize (physics): Vincent.

Herschel Prize (astronomy): Eckhardt.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that Mr. G. Birtwistle, who was bracketed Senior Wrangler this year with Mr. R. P. Paranjpye, has not only had much success in mathematics during his career, but has distinguished himself in other subjects. When at Owens College he devoted himself chiefly to chemistry, and in 1896 graduated B.Sc. with first-class honours in chemistry, obtaining also a Le Blanc medal and University scholarship. With regard to Mr. Paranjpye, the Allahabad correspondent of the *Times* states that he is a Maratha Brahmin, born twenty-three years ago in the village of Murdi, in the Ratnagiri district. First in the first division has been his invariable record since in 1891, at the age of fifteen, he headed the list at the matriculation examination for the whole of the Bombay Presidency. During his three years at Fergusson College he passed first in the first class at every examination. Fergusson College is an institution manned entirely by native professors, and Mr. Paranjpye, before going to England, pledged twenty years of his life to service in the college, where he will draw a salary not exceeding Rs.70 a month.

<sup>1</sup> "Mauritius Magnetical Reductions." Edited by T. F. Claxton, F.R.A.S. Being a discussion of the results obtained from the self-recording magnetometers from 1875 to 1890, under the direction of C. Meldrum, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.

THE quinquennial meeting and international congress convened by the International Council of Women will be held in London on June 26-July 5. A number of subjects in the progress of which women take active part will be discussed in the various sections of the congress. In the educational section the life and training of the child, primary education, universities, modern educational experiments, technical education, women as educators, co-education, training of teachers, and examinations, will be brought forward. In the professional section, among the subjects of papers and discussions are: professions open to women, and the work of women in physical and biological sciences. Other subjects to be discussed are farming in its various branches as an occupation for women, and the training of women in agriculture, horticulture, and other trades and professions.

IN an address delivered at the Leys School, Cambridge, on Friday last, Mr. A. J. Balfour referred to the educational values of science and literature. In the course of his remarks he said: "I cannot really conceive that any man, however enamoured of scientific method, should for a moment undervalue that insight into human nature and the interests which have always stirred human nature, and the manner in which those interests have been transformed by men of genius from time to time in the imaginative crucible of literature—I cannot imagine that such a training should be undervalued even by the most rigid advocate of scientific method. On the other hand, is it credible that in these days there should any man be found who should undervalue that curiosity about the world in which we live which science cannot indeed satisfy, but towards the satisfaction of which, after all, science is the only minister?" The claims of science are here given fair recognition, and men of science do not usually ask for more than this. Their complaint is that science is too often regarded as the Cinderella among school and university subjects; and it is only of late years that any noteworthy improvements have taken place in her position.

AN interesting account of the "Mosque of the Olive Tree" (Jama-Ez-Zituna) at Tunis, one of the three great centres of Mahomedan learning in North Africa, the others being El Azhar in Cairo and the Great Mosque at Fez, in Morocco, is given in a recent report by Sir Harry Johnston. Over 400 students are usually taught at this University, while there are about 100 professors. The lectures begin at sunrise and continue until sunset, fifteen different lectures usually going on at the same time. Each professor sits cross-legged, with his back against one of the many columns of the mosque, his students grouped about him. Until recently, there was but little method in the instruction; each professor rambled on in his discourse, ranging over any topic on which he cared to impart information, and the students listened or not as they chose. To encourage a more practical education, the State offered the students exemption from military service and from certain taxes if they passed an elementary outside examination; but only four of sixty-six recently succeeded in doing this. In future, it is intended to impress on the management of the mosque that each professor should keep to one subject; that the student should be obliged to take notes, and pass periodical examinations. External lectures on scientific subjects and on matters of present-day interest have also been established, and about 100 students from the mosque now attend these.

## SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

### LONDON.

**Royal Society, April 27.**—"On the Presence of Oxygen in the Atmospheres of certain Fixed Stars." By David Gill, C.B., F.R.S., &c., Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope.

The observations described confirm the conclusions arrived at by Mr. F. McClean and Sir Norman Lockyer as to the existence of oxygen lines in the spectrum of  $\beta$  Crucis. From measures of photographs of the spectrum of this star, it is concluded that the whole of the known helium lines within the measured range of spectrum are unquestionably present, as also are all known oxygen lines stronger than intensity 4.

"There remains not the slightest doubt that all the stronger oxygen lines are present in the spectrum of  $\beta$  Crucis, at least between  $\lambda$  4250 and 4575, and this fact requires no further laboratory experiments for its establishment. It is almost

equally certain that there is no trace of true nitrogen lines in this spectrum. . . . Besides hydrogen, helium and oxygen, the spectrum of  $\beta$  Crucis shows the probable presence of carbon ( $\lambda$  267.2) and magnesium ( $\lambda$  4481.17). . . . The spectra of  $\beta$  Crucis,  $\beta$  and  $\epsilon$  Canis Majoris, and probably  $\beta$  Centauri are all practically identical."

**Linnean Society, June 1.**—Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S., President, in the chair.—Mr. W. B. Hemsley, F.R.S., exhibited a selection of high-level plants from the collections formerly made by Sir Joseph Hooker, Dr. Thomson, General Sir R. Strachey, and more recently by Captain Welby, Mr. and Mrs. Littledale, and Mr. Arnold Pike in Northern India, Tibet, and Mongolia, many of them from altitudes of 18,000 to 19,200 feet. A selection was also shown from the collections made in the Andes by Sir Martin Conway, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Gosse, and Mr. Whymper, at various altitudes up to 18,500 feet. The principal points referred to were the small size of many of the plants, the protective woolly covering of others, and the general preponderance of the natural order *Compositae*.—On behalf of Mr. Rupert Vallentin, Mr. J. E. Harting exhibited lantern slides of the so-called "Sea-Elephant" (*Macrorhinus elephantinus*), prepared from photographs taken in February last by Mr. Vallentin in the Falkland Islands. After briefly tracing the distribution of this huge seal on various Antarctic and subtropical islands, Mr. Vallentin's notes on a specimen killed in Stanley Harbour were read. This specimen measured 18 feet 11 inches from the end of the trunk to a straight line between the two hinder extremities; the trunk, produced by the inflation of a loose tubular sac of skin above the nostrils, is present only in the male, and measures, when fully extended, twelve inches from the gape. No fresh facts were made known concerning the nature of the food of this animal, described by some writers as herbivorous like the manatee, by others as feeding on mollusca and crustacea like the walrus. In this case the stomach was empty, with the exception of a large number of Nematode worms, specimens of which were exhibited.—Mr. Harting also exhibited and made remarks on some living specimens of the Bank vole (*Microtus glareolus*), recently obtained by Mr. Robert Drane on Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire.—Mr. A. W. Bennett exhibited and described a remarkable Alga from Scotland (*Lyngbya* sp.?) possessing a soluble pigment producing a beautiful fluorescent solution.—The President exhibited photographs of four out of eight gigantic tortoises originally brought from Aldabra Island, and now living in the grounds of Government House, Seychelles, and communicated a report on the subject of the present distribution of the species, addressed to the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., by the Administrator of the Seychelles.—Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., F.R.S., read a paper on some Australasian collembola, figures of which were exhibited.—On behalf of Mr. F. N. Williams, the Secretary read a paper on some *Caryophyllaceae* from Szechuen, with a note on the recent botanical exploration of that province.—A paper was read by Mr. W. T. Calman on the Crustacean genus *Bathynella* (Vejd.), which was shown to be an ally of the important form *Anaspides* (Thom.) originally described in the Society's *Transactions*, vol. vi. p. 285.

**Zoological Society, June 6.**—Dr. Henry Woodward, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the chair.—Mr. Slater exhibited photographs of the female specimen of Grévy's zebra now living in the gardens of the Société d'Acclimatation, Paris; and read a letter from Captain J. L. Harrington, H.B.M. Envoy to Abyssinia, in which he expressed a hope to be able to bring living examples of this animal home with him when he returned to this country.—Mr. A. Blayney Percival exhibited and made remarks upon some specimens of birds and insects which he had recently brought from the southern districts of British Central Africa.—Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., exhibited some living specimens of a Silurid fish, the "Harmut" (*Clarias lasera*, C and V.), from Damietta, Egypt, collected by Mr. W. L. S. Loat, which were believed to be the first examples of this curious fish imported alive to this country.—Dr. S. F. Harmer, F.R.S., gave an account of specimens of the remains of a deer in the collection of the University Museum of Zoology at Cambridge, obtained from the Forest-Bed series at Pakefield, near Lowestoft, and belonging to the form usually known as *Cervus verticornis*, Dawk. The cranial portion of the skull was well preserved, and the antlers had a spread of six feet, measured in a straight line. The question of nomenclature was considered, with the result that *C. verticornis* of the Forest-